(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 30 October 2003 (30.10.2003)

**PCT** 

## (10) International Publication Number WO 03/089156 A1

(51) International Patent Classification7:

\_\_\_\_

B07C 5/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US03/11570

(22) International Filing Date: 16 April 2003 (16.04.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/373,003 60/421,301 16 April 2002 (16.04.2002) US 25 October 2002 (25.10.2002) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY [US/US]; 34th and Charles Streets, Baltimore, MD 21218 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HARSHBARGER, Stuart, D. [US/US]; 1627 Daisy Road, Woodbine, MD 21797 (US). ARABIAN, Adam, K. [US/US]; 10411 Montrose Avenue, #2, Bethesda, MD 20814 (US). MCLOUGHLIN, Michael, P. [US/US]; 5385 Thames Court, Sykesville, MD 21784 (US). CARLSON, Micah, A. [US/US]; 1460 William Street, Baltimore, MD 21230 (US).

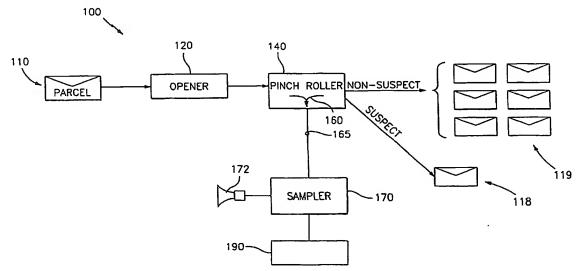
- (74) Agents: COOCH, Francis, A. et al.; The Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory, 11100 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, MD 20723-6099 (US).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GO, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

## Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATED PARCEL SCREENING



(57) Abstract: A system and method (Fig. 1) for automated handling and identification of parcels sorted by an automated high-speed mail sorting apparatus that identifies parcels that contain hoax or biological threat material comprising an opener (120) and a particle sampler (170), wherein said sampler analyzes air flow created as the parcels are compressed by pinch rollers (140).

O 03/089156 A1